

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 90, line 22, as follows:

a! By this system of driving, the five cold cathode tubes 608 are scanned as they are successfully dimmed. That is, as shown in Fig. 27, within one frame period, the inverter input signal (1) first becomes low voltage level at the timing of the vertical synchronize signal, and the first cold cathode tube 608, i.e., the cold cathode tube (1) enters the dimming period. After a predetermined time period, i.e., after the elapsed time ~~(tb)~~ (td) which corresponds to the degree of phase deviation between the inverter input signals (1) and (2), the inverter input signal (2) becomes low voltage level and the second cold cathode tube 608, i.e., the cold cathode tube (2) enters the dimming period. The same process is repeated thereafter.